December 31, 2007

My Fellow Memphians:

As we reflect back on 2007, I want first to express my gratitude to the citizens of Memphis who elected me to serve a 5<sup>th</sup> term on the Memphis City Council. This election year brought a new group of political hopefuls replacing an unprecedented 9 councilmembers. Those of us returning bid farewell to our friends and former colleagues and we share our optimism for this new generation of public servants.

This year began with a rocky start. Two councilmembers were indicted in November 2006 on public corruption charges, which led to the investigation of political favoritism at MLGW. In the midst of these difficult times, the council was able to pass a new ethics ordinance pertaining to city officials and a recall referendum which if approved by voters will empower citizens to remove a member of the council. We hope these measures and a commitment to transparency in government will help restore public trust of Memphis' elected officials.

As chairman of the Charter Commission, I am optimistic that the commission will pass positive recommendations for citizens to consider next year. For an update of Charter Commission activities, please go to <a href="https://www.memphischartercommission.org">www.memphischartercommission.org</a>

The Council term that begins in 2008 will see continued work on many issues related to the future growth and improvement of Memphis. We anticipate seeing the selected proposal for the fairgrounds redevelopment master plan. The fairgrounds and the Graceland area are slated to become tourism development zones and are expected to become bigger attractions than ever. Hopefully we will have a definite plan for the future of the Pyramid.

We will remain focused on eliminating blight in Memphis. We will consider a new Unified Development Code which recommends a new set of zoning laws and we will look at new regulations for adult oriented businesses and the billboard industry.

The council begins this new term with a full plate, but I truly believe the 9 new members are among the best and brightest to ever serve the citizens of Memphis. Together we can steer our city in a direction which will serve our constituents well and gain Memphis an even stronger presence in our global economy.

Sincerely,

Myron Lowery

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